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to the
state
board
of education

REPORT 1974-1975

May 20, 1975

Neal Yanofsky, Chairman

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PREFACE

The Student Advisory Council to the State Board of Education was established by the Massachusetts State Legislature in 1971. The Student Advisory Council comprises eleven regional councils, covering all of Massachusetts, and a coordinating state council. Each high school in the state elects a delegate and an alternate to a Regional Student Advisory Council. Every regional council in turn elects four of its members to serve on the State Student Advisory Council. The final step of the process is the election of a chairperson of the State Student Advisory Council, who serves a one-year term as a full voting member of the State Board of Education.

The Student Advisory Council is presently operated in part by a pilot grant from the federal Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

INTRODUCTION

It is often difficult to assess the progress and accomplishments of an organization on a short-term basis. This report is intended to provide a broad perspective on the activities of the Student Advisory Council during its 1974-1975 term, the third year of its existence.

During this time, the Student Advisory Council (SAC) has been active in five general areas: completion of substantive projects and proposals; legislative efforts; workshops and training efforts; cooperative efforts with other groups and organizations; and publicity drives. The following is a summary of the work of the Student Advisory Council in these five areas. Due to the nature of these activities, the report is not an exhaustive account of all Student Advisory Council pursuits, but rather is an overview of the major areas of concentration of effort. These areas are grouped for purposes of clarity and organization, and not on the basis of priority order.

PROJECTS AND PROPOSALS

Recommendations for Curriculum Innovation, Chapter 215

Chapter 215 is a 1972 law creating a mechanism through which parents and students may add courses to the curricula of public secondary schools. The procedures outlined in the law are quite vague, which has tended to discourage wide utilization of the law's provisions.

To increase the use of Chapter 215, the 1973-1974 Boston B Regional Student Advisory Council initiated a project of Recommendations for the Implementation of Chapter 215 of the Acts of 1972. The 1974-1975 regional council completed the project in August, 1974. In September, the State Student Advisory Council unanimously approved a slightly revised form of the recommendations. The new recommendations were presented to the Board of Education, and unanimously approved by the Board at its regular meeting in November, 1974.

Task Force on Student Advisory Committees to School Committees

In August, 1974, a task force to promulgate procedures for the election and operation of student advisory committees to school committees was appointed by the Commissioner of Education. The membership of the task force comprised representatives from the professional education association, the Student Advisory Council,

the Department of Education, parent groups, the Secretary of Education's Office, and other concerned groups and individuals. This representative group, the creation of which was mandated by legislation drafted and sponsored by the Student Advisory Council, was chaired by the SAC Chairman.

The task force met regularly from the end of August through October to draft its recommendations. The provisions of the recommendations include: specific procedures for the election of the five-member student advisory committee; descriptions of the roles and responsibilities of the committee, and of its officers; appendices of resource and reference materials for student advisory committee candidates and members, and school administrators.

The final comprehensive recommendations of the task force were presented to the Board of Education at its November, 1974 meeting and unanimously approved. They were subsequently distributed to all school superintendents, school committee chairpersons, high school principals, and Student Advisory Council members.

Guidelines for Student Advisory Committee Workshops

A committee of the State Student Advisory Council was formed to facilitate and encourage the implementation of the Recommendations for the Election and Operation of Student Advisory Committees to School Committees (see page 3). One of the major efforts of the committee was the development, in conjunction with the Department of Education's

Bureau of Student Services, of guidelines for the workshops suggested in the student advisory committee recommendations. These guidelines are used as a general framework for conducting the student advisory committee workshops, and as preliminary information for local school districts on the workshops.

State Student Advisory Council By-Laws

The State Student Advisory Council began operating under its new by-laws this year. As is often the case, the initial use of new procedures revealed some weaknesses in certain areas. To address this problem, an ad hoc committee of the State Student Advisory Council was established to redraft the by-laws. The committee prepared a series of recommended amendments to the by-laws. The amendments, with some modifications, were accepted by the State Student Advisory Council at its December meeting. The Council has been operating smoothly under the new by-laws since that time.

Smoking Guidelines

The 1972-1973 and 1973-1974 Pittsfield Regional Student Advisory Council developed guidelines for the granting of smoking privileges in high schools. These guidelines do not advocate smoking either directly or indirectly, but rather serve to clarify the basic practical and legal requirements and restrictions of smoking in schools.

The guidelines were revised by this year's Springfield Regional Student Advisory Council. Before a final document was prepared by the Student Advisory Council, the draft of the guidelines was presented to the Massachusetts Secondary School Principals Association for reactions and comments. The reaction of the principals association to the guidelines was generally favorable. The association worked in conjunction with the Student Advisory Council to distribute the draft to high school administrators across the state, in order to glean additional suggestions before a final draft was prepared. Many of the suggestions received were integrated into the final version of the guidelines.

Regional Projects

Many of the projects and proposals described in this report were initiated by a Regional Student Advisory Council, and later brought to the State Student Advisory Council. There are some regional projects that have not as yet been finalized, and that will carry-over into next year's Council. These include projects on due process procedures, student involvement in personnel decisions, a student communications handbook, and others.

LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS

Student Rights and Responsibilities Legislation

The enactment of legislation to define and clarify certain rights and responsibilities of secondary school students has been a major goal of the Student Advisory Council during the three years of the Council's existence. The past year has seen a substantial realization of that goal. On July 31, 1974, Chapter 670, An Act Defining and Clarifying Certain Rights and Responsibilities of Public Secondary School Students was signed into law. This new law, filed initially by the State Board of Education and sponsored by the Student Advisory Council, delineates both the rights and the responsibilities of students, in the areas of expression, the press, assembly, dress, and pregnancy and marriage. The law, which was enacted largely as a result of the support organized for it by the Student Advisory Council, does not in any way alter the right of school officials to maintain an orderly and efficient school system.

A major disappointment with the law is the fact that it was enacted with a "home-rule amendment." This clause states that the law applies only to the cities, towns, and regional school districts that accept its provisions, by a vote of the city or town government. A high priority for the Student Advisory Council this year was placed on efforts toward acceptance of Chapter 670 in cities and towns across the Commonwealth. The major responsibility for this effort was

carried by the more than four hundred Regional Student Advisory Council members. Because of these efforts, the law has been considered by school districts throughout Massachusetts.

1975 Legislative Packet

Each year, the Student Advisory Council drafts and files a small number of select student-related bills in the State Legislature. The 1975 Legislative Packet was developed by the Legislative Committee of the State Student Advisory Council after extensive consultation with state legislators, representatives of the professional education associations, legal groups, and other concerned organizations and individuals. It includes the following three bills:

NON-VOTING STUDENT ON SCHOOL COMMITTEES -- The goal of this proposal is to increase the effectiveness and consistency of student involvement on local school committees. It would require each five-member student advisory committee to the school committee to elect a chairperson, who would serve as a member of the school committee. This student would not have the right to vote or to attend executive sessions, although he or she would have all the other privileges and obligations of school committee members.

This legislation was presented to the Board of Education at its October 1974 meeting. The Board accepted the bill unanimously for inclusion in its 1975 legislation. It was later ranked as the fourth highest legislative priority of the Board for the year.

PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATION -- This bill would extend privileged communication benefits to confidential verbal communications between a student and a counselor or advisor in the school, including guidance counselors, teachers, psychologists, health specialists, and administrators. The legislation would forbid the divulgence of these communications without the consent of the student. Divulgence would be permitted for the

purpose of professional consultation between school employees for the benefit of the counselee, or if the communication concerned a crime that was contemplated or planned for the future. The Student Advisory Council added the last two limitations after the bill's initial filing, in response to concerns raised by the Massachusetts Secondary School Principals Association and the Massachusetts School Counselors Association. The bill was redrafted in close cooperation with these two associations.

CURRICULUM INNOVATION AMENDMENTS -- This bill would make technical amendments to strengthen the curriculum innovation law, Chapter 215 (see page 3). It would adjust the law to make its provisions more accessible to the smaller high schools in the state, which in the past have not been able to fully benefit from the law.

Because of the inherent nature of the mechanism of the State Legislature, it is impossible in a report such as this to provide accurate status reports on legislative proposals. It can be said, however, that the general reception to these three bills has been positive, and that all three have received favorable reports from the Joint Committee on Education.

Legislative Hearing

On March 10, 1975, the Student Advisory Council bills on non-voting students on school committees and privileged communication were heard before the Joint Committee on Education. The Student Advisory Council generated and organized testimony on the first bill from more than a dozen cities and towns with non-voting student members on their school committees. Both the student members and

other school committee members from these towns spoke in support of the proposal. Other organizations, such as the Massachusetts Association of Student Councils (see page 18) and the Parent -Teacher-Student Association (see page 13) testified in support of the bill. There was similarly strong support for the privileged communication legislation.

The Student Advisory Council wrote and presented testimony for both bills. The statements detailed the major philosophy behind the bills, as well as their impact and advantages.

The hearing was attended by more than two hundred persons from the Student Advisory Council and elsewhere.

Legislative Position Planning

At both its own initiation and at the request of the Senate Chairman of the Joint Committee on Education, the Student Advisory Council made a major expansion of its legislative program during the 1975 legislative session. In addition to drafting and filing three of its own bills, the Council took positions on a large number of the bills before the Legislature affecting students. In a series of meetings throughout February, 1975; the Legislative Committee of the State Student Advisory Council formulated positions on more than two hundred fifty significant education and student-related bills. These bills ranged from racial imbalance to sex education, and from due process for suspensions to mandated curricula.

The positions were communicated by letter to the Education Committee for almost all of the hearings from February to their conclusion in early April.

Legislative Procedures

A constructive by-product of the Student Advisory Council's work in the legislature has been the fact that many SAC members' have gained a greater understanding of the workings of the State Legislature. In order to build on this foundation, and to increase the Council's legislative capabilities in the future, the Student Advisory Council conducted a legislative procedures workshop for its members (see page 13).

WORKSHOPS AND TRAINING EFFORTS

Simon's Rock

.During the first two weeks of August, 1974, the State Student Advisory Council and each of the eleven Regional Student Advisory Councils participated in intensive three-day leadership training workshops at Simon's Rock Early College in Great Barrington, Massachusetts. The purpose of the workshops was to allow SAC members to get to know one another, to strengthen the feelings of individuals for each other, and for the group as a whole. In addition to these group dynamics, each council used the workshop to determine its priorities for the year. The workshops served to focus the attention and efforts of the Student Advisory Council members on both the process by which the Council operates, and the products it should generate. The impact of these workshops was seen throughout the year in the improved operation of both the state and regional councils.

Regional Chairpersons Workshop

A workshop for the chairpersons of the eleven Regional Student Advisory Councils was held on November 24, 1974. The main goal of the workshop was to increase the competence of the chairpersons to efficiently and effectively conduct regional council meetings. Specifically, the workshop built skills in the areas of agenda building, conducting a meeting, problem - solving, and others.

Legislative Procedures Workshop

In November, 1974, a special workshop on legislative procedures was conducted for the Legislative Committee of the State Student Advisory Council. The workshop included an informal seminar by the House Chairman of the Legislature's Joint Committee on Education, and the use of "The State House Game" (see below). The result of the workshop was not only an increased understanding of the complex workings of the State Legislature, but the development of a cogent plan and pattern for the Student Advisory Council to constructively affect those workings.

"The State House Game"

A core group of two State Student Advisory Council members and one supervisor developed "The State House Game," a simulation of the State Legislature, for use at the legislative procedures workshop. The game includes the following components: choosing a bill; enlisting a sponsor; inducing outside groups and organizations to support the bill; hearing; moving the bill to the floor; moving the bill through both legislative houses; gaining gubernatorial approval.

"The State House Game" has also been used by a few of the regional councils, and plans are being formulated to make it available to high school history and government classes.

Student Advisory Committee to School Committee Workshops

The Recommendations for the Election and Operation of Student Advisory Committees to School Committees (see page 3) include a suggestion for workshops for local student advisory committee members to include components of leadership training, group dynamics, and agenda building . The Student Advisory Council has been involved in these workshops both directly and indirectly. Some SAC members have themselves conducted the workshops . In addition, the State Student Advisory Council developed and approved guidelines for these workshops, in conjunction with the Bureau of Student Services in the Department of Education (see page 4).

COOPERATIVE EFFORTS WITH OTHER GROUPS AND ASSOCIATIONS

State Board of Education

The closest link the Student Advisory Council has to any organization is the Council's relationship to the Board of Education. Through the Student Advisory Council Chairman, the SAC has direct input into the wide range of decisions on educational policy that are made by the Board. In addition, many of the Student Advisory Council projects are eventually brought to the Board of Education for its endorsement.

Department of Education

The Student Advisory Council has many connections to the Department of Education. The Council is closely related to and often works in conjunction with the Department's Student Service Center. Many of the Student Service Center staff members are also members of the SAC. In addition, the regional offices of the Student Service Center provide support services for the eleven Regional Student Advisory Councils.

By formal policy of the Board of Education, Department of Education task forces and advisory groups must have student representation. Student Advisory Council members have been active participants in a large number of these. They include work in the areas of student records, sex discrimination, magnet educational schools and programs, teacher certification, statewide educational assessment, arts and humanities

education, civic education, career guidance and many others. Each regional advisory council to the six regional education centers of the Department of Education also has student membership, drawn from the Student Advisory Council.

A final component of Student Advisory Council cooperation and involvement with the Department of Education is the many mutually beneficial relationships between the SAC and individual bureaus in the Department. These include the Bureau of Equal Educational Opportunity, Bureau of Educational Information Services, Bureau of Transitional Bilingual Education, Bureau of School Lunch Program, Title III, Special Education, Legal Office, and scholarship information and higher education, as well as others.

Secretary of Education

After the change of gubernatorial administrations in January 1975, Student Advisory Council officers met with the newly appointed Secretary of Educational Affairs, to familiarize him with the structure and purpose of the Student Advisory Council. In addition to this direct contact with the Secretary, the Student Advisory Council has maintained an ongoing constructive relationship with his office.

Professional Education Associations

The positive relationship established last year between the Student Advisory Council and the four major professional education groups (Massachusetts Association of School Committees, Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents, Massachusetts Secondary School Principals Association, Massachusetts Teachers Association) has been continued this year. In addition to a general continuing relationship between the SAC and the education associations, many specific contacts, often in regard to Student Advisory Council projects, were initiated. These include: a series of meetings with the executive officers of the four associations in the fall of 1974, at which the SAC legislative program and other pending proposals were reviewed; conducting a "special interest clinic" in student rights and responsibilities at the annual joint conference of the school committees and superintendents associations; cooperation with the principals association on the smoking guidelines (see page 5); participation in the spring conference of the principals association; speaking at a meeting of the South Shore division of the principals association; and many others.

In addition to the above four organizations, the Student Advisory Council began a new relationship with the Massachusetts School Counselors Association. The SAC worked closely with the MSCA on the Council's privileged communication legislation (see page 8).

Massachusetts Association of Student Councils

The Massachusetts Association of Student Councils (MASC), under the auspices of the Massachusetts Secondary School Principals Association, is the largest volunteer student government organization in the state. This year, the SAC and MASC have continued their cooperation begun last year. The SAC chairman sits as a member of the MASC Executive Board. In turn, the MASC president sits as a full member of the State Student Advisory Council. The SAC and MASC also exchange articles for publication in their respective newsletters.

In addition to continuing these two important links of last year, an important new liaison was established. The MASC vice-president served as a legislative liaison to the SAC legislative Committee. As such, he participated in all of the committee's deliberations. A final facet of SAC-MASC cooperation is the many seminars conducted on the Student Advisory Council and its activities by SAC members at the regional conventions of the MASC in the fall and spring. The SAC also worked in conjunction with the Massachusetts Association of Student Councils in sponsoring a statewide student conference in March, 1975 (see page 27).

Parent-Teacher-Student Association

The Parent-Teacher-Student Association (PTSA) has been very interested in increasing student involvement in its organization.

Parent-Teacher-Student Association

The Parent-Teacher-Student Association (PTSA) has been very interested in increasing student involvement in its organization. This has been done in cooperation with the Student Advisory Council by: placing articles concerning the Student Advisory Council and student rights and responsibilities in the PTSA bulletin; regular attendance and membership of three SAC members at PTSA governing board meetings; SAC participation at the PTSA annual conference on October 19, 1974, at which the Chairman moderated a panel discussion on the topic "The 'S' is for 'Student'". In addition, the SAC is a member of a consortium, led by the PTSA, for developing a program of alcohol education for Massachusetts schools.

Boston Groups

The Student Advisory Council has worked with two groups in the City of Boston. The first is the Boston Student Advisory Committee, which comprises two students elected from each of the city's high schools, and a five-member executive committee, who sit in an advisory capacity to the School committee of Boston. The Boston Student Advisory Committee and the Student Advisory Council have worked together on the student rights and responsibilities law (see page 7) which was passed by the City of Boston in October, 1974, and on the student advisory committee recommendations (see page 3).

The second organization in Boston is the Youth Activities Commission, the division of the Mayor's Office dealing with student concerns.

During the summer of 1974, SAC members spoke at a series of workshops for Boston students. The workshops, held on Cape Cod by the Youth Activities Commission, were intended to facilitate the opening of schools in Boston in September. The Student Advisory Council and the Student Service Center were outlined, as were the ways that they could assist students. Many Boston students later contacted the SAC and SSC as a result of these workshops.

"Political Discovery in Government Center"

The Student Advisory Council has participated in this project which uses the Government Center area of Boston as a learning environment for groups of high school students, drawn both from Boston and from surrounding communities. The SAC has representation on the Board of Directors of the project, and has regularly served as a resource for the project's participants.

Cambridge Summer Studies Project

The SAC chairman served as a member of the advisory group to this team of high school students who were studying student rights and responsibilities in the Cambridge schools. Much of the information in their final report was based on information and referrals provided by the Student Advisory Council.

Children's Campaign

The Children's Campaign was a non-partisan organization whose main goal was to bring the issues of young people to the forefront of the 1974 elections. SAC members contributed to the initial stages of the Campaign, as well as testifying on the campaign's platform. The chairman participated on a panel interviewing the gubernatorial candidates on the issues of the Children's Campaign platform.

MACE Studies

The Student Advisory Council has been involved in two studies sponsored by the Massachusetts Advisory Council on Education. A MACE study on accrediting outside of school learning experiences toward a high school diploma has student representation on its advisory group. Also, SAC members were active in reviewing the models for accreditation practices that the study has begun to generate.

A second MACE study, MASS/PACTS (Massachusetts Parents, Administrators, Community, Teachers, and Students) is studying citizen participation in education in Massachusetts. MASS/PACTS also has Student Advisory Council representation on its steering committee. In addition, SAC members testified on the Council's behalf at a series of open hearings across the state that were conducted by MASS/PACTS.

Office of Student Affairs

The Student Advisory Council was involved in the shaping of a proposal for an Office of Student Affairs (OSA), to be located in the Executive Office of Educational Affairs. The OSA would parallel the functions of the Student Advisory Council and Student Service Center, but would serve post-secondary school students. SAC members participated in a conference in October 1974, to discuss and refine different facets of the OSA. The present status of the proposal is uncertain, due to the change of administration in the Executive Office of Educational Affairs.

"A Day Together"

The Department of Education's Division of Special Education sponsored "A Day Together" on September 28, 1974. This program paired young people with special needs with young people without special needs on a one-to-one basis. The "one-on-ones" spent the day together on the Boston Common, where many activities were planned. The purpose of the day was to break down the barriers often existing between those with special needs and those without special needs. Student Advisory Council members participated on many levels. The SAC helped in publicizing the event, as staff for the day, and with the entertainment and refreshments.

Citizen Resource Center

The Citizen Resource Center is an office in the Worcester Regional Education Center of the Department of Education. The Center provides information to citizens in the central region of Massachusetts who are concerned about education. The Student Advisory Council has cooperated with the Citizen Resource Center, most notably through a seminar on Creative Student Involvement conducted by the Center on November 16, 1975. Student Advisory Council members served on and moderated a panel on that topic.

In addition to the above, the possibility of adding student-related information and services to the capabilities of the Citizen Resource Center is being explored.

Energy Conservation Corps

The Student Advisory Council participated in federal programs to establish "Energy Conservation Corps" whose membership would include students on all levels, from high school to elementary school. SAC members attended a planning conference for the Energy Conservation Corps, held in cooperation with the Department of Education in early June, 1974. During October and November, SAC members attended a second phase of conference/workshops in the six regional education centers.

PUBLICITY DRIVES

Student Advisory Council members have worked productively to publicize the Student Advisory Council and its activities across the Commonwealth. These efforts, led by the State Student Advisory Council in close cooperation with the resources of the Student Service Center (see page 15), have reached thousands of students, parents, and concerned citizens in Massachusetts.

Television and Radio

The Student Advisory Council has been featured on educational television's "Catch-44," and on the "Ask Beth" program of Channel 56. The SAC also gained exposure through an interview segment on the "Tom Larson Show" on Channel 38.

The Student Advisory Council has received extensive radio coverage. SAC members have participated on panel discussions and interviews on stations WBZ-FM, WJIB-FM, WMEX, WRKO, WARE, and others. News stories including the Student Advisory Council as well as SAC public service announcements have been aired on radio stations across the state too numerous to mention.

Newspapers

Innumerable articles concerning the Student Advisory

Council have appeared in newspapers from cities and towns throughout Massachusetts. The Boston Sunday Herald Advertiser featured the Student Advisory Council on the front page of its September 29, 1974 education section.

Letters-to-the-editor written by the chairman in response to articles concerning students were printed in the Boston Herald-American and Boston Phoenix.

The Student Advisory Council has produced two major news releases in conjunction with the Student Service Center. One, which was sent to each local newspaper in the state, announced the election of the Regional Student Advisory Council delegates from that area. A second was released to publicize the signing of the student rights and responsibilities law. Both of these received wide exposure in the press.

The State House Press Service has carried articles on the Student Advisory Council's legislative activities which have been printed in all regions of the state. A final important facet of press coverage are the fine articles (many written by SAC members) that have been printed in a great number of high school newspapers.

Graphics

During the summer of 1974, the Student Advisory Council and Student Service Center worked with the Department of Education's Bureau of Educational Information Services in designing attractive and distinctive logos for the SAC and SSC. These logos

are being used in connection with publicity efforts of the Student Advisory Council. These include Student Advisory Council buttons, brochures, stationary, and business cards.

Newsletter

In January 1975, the Student Advisory Council joined with the Student Service Center in producing and distributing a joint informational newsletter. The newsletter, which had formerly been published exclusively by the Student Service Center, is mailed regularly to more than 2500 persons, including all Student Advisory Council members, high school principals, school committee chairpersons, superintendents, editors of high school newspapers, and other interested citizens. It includes articles on both the Student Advisory Council and the Student Service Center and their activities, and is written and produced by SAC and SSC members.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Statewide Conference

On March 6, 1975, the Student Advisory Council, in cooperation with the Massachusetts Association of Student Councils, conducted a statewide conference for students. This conference was the largest and most successful of its type in Massachusetts. More than eight hundred students from over one hundred fifty high schools throughout the state participated in the day's program. The program included more than two dozen seminars on topics from sex discrimination to student records, and from student council reform to bilingual education. A major highlight of the day was the keynote speaker, His Excellency Michael S. Dukakis, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

HEW Presentation

On February 14, 1975, the Student Advisory Council and Student Service Center made a formal presentation of the SAC and SSC to the Commissioner of the Office of Youth Development of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, and to the ten regional directors of the Office, as well as the Director of Research and Development of HEW. The presentation included a progress report of the project to that point, and future plans for the expansion of activities.

National Contacts

The Student Advisory Council has made many contacts with student-oriented organizations in other states, as well as with other states' Departments of Education. These include California, Illinois, Maryland, South Dakota, Michigan, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and others. Many of these groups have been favorably impressed with the Council to the point of exploring the possibilities for establishing Student Advisory Councils in their own states.

A prime example of this is Rhode Island. The Rhode Island Department of Education has had a Youth Advisory Council on Education (YACE) for the past few years. Participation in the YACE had dwindled to the point of it becoming inoperative. During the summer and early fall of 1974, representatives of the Rhode Island Department of Education met with the SAC Chairman to explore the applicability of the Massachusetts Student Advisory Council structure to Rhode Island. As a result of these meetings, a proposal for a new Youth Advisory Council on Education was prepared. It describes a YACE almost identical in structure and purpose to the Massachusetts SAC, with regional councils, and a coordinating council which draws its membership from the regions. The YACE

elections were conducted in March and April 1975, and the new Council will begin operating fully in the fall of 1975.

Congressional Testimony

On March 17, 1975, two Student Advisory Council members testified before a congressional sub-committee in Washington. The subject of their testimony was sex discrimination in education, particularly in vocational and technical schools. The Council members testified both on the basis of personal experience and observation, and from the broader perspective of the legal status of this issue in Massachusetts. This was the Student Advisory Council's first direct involvement with the United States Congress.

Increased Participation and Representation

This year both staff and students involved with the Student Advisory Council have concentrated on encouraging student representatives from urban school systems in the state, particularly from the Boston Public Schools. These efforts have resulted in a substantial increase in the number of students from urban school districts that are Student Advisory Council members. The Student Advisory Council has conducted similar active efforts to increase representation from minority group students and bilingual students.

SUMMARY

In the past twelve months, the Student Advisory Council to the State Board of Education has been active on a wide spectrum of issues affecting education in Massachusetts. This activity has taken place in many forums, including the Board of Education, the Department of Education, and the State Legislature. But the Student Advisory Council has done more than generate substantive products. It has helped to make students an integral and real part of educational decision-making. Students have played a legitimate and positive role in the many spheres of educational governance in the state, on a local, regional, and statewide basis. The involvement of students in this process has clearly been more than symbolic or tokenistic. It is the success of the Student Advisory Council on both fronts, product and process, that makes the 1974-1975 term of the Student Advisory Council a significant one.

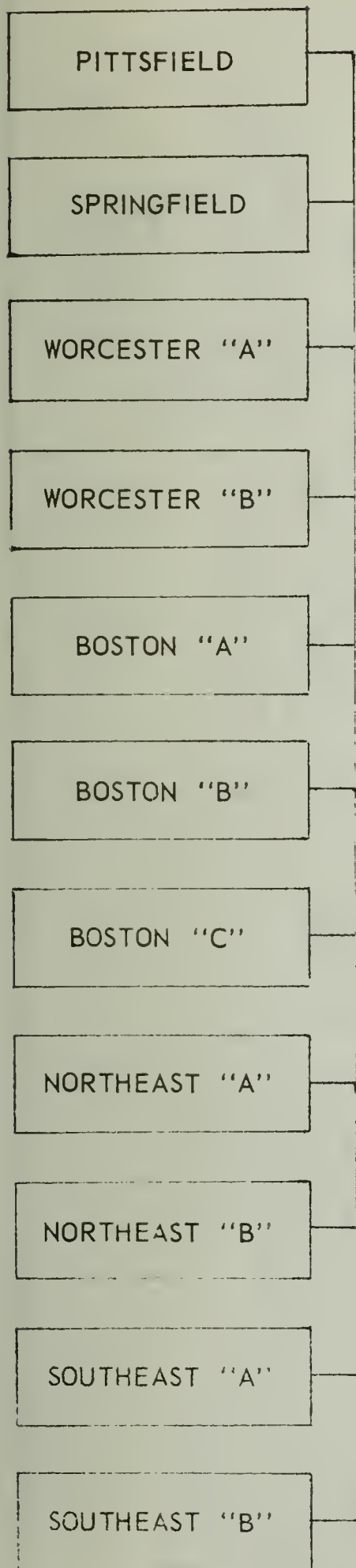
Because of the dimensions of the activities of the Student Advisory Council, much detail has been omitted from this report. The Student Advisory Council welcomes any inquiries, suggestions, or criticisms:

Student Advisory Council
Department of Education
182 Tremont Street-- Fourth Floor
Boston, Massachusetts 02111
617/727-7040, 7041

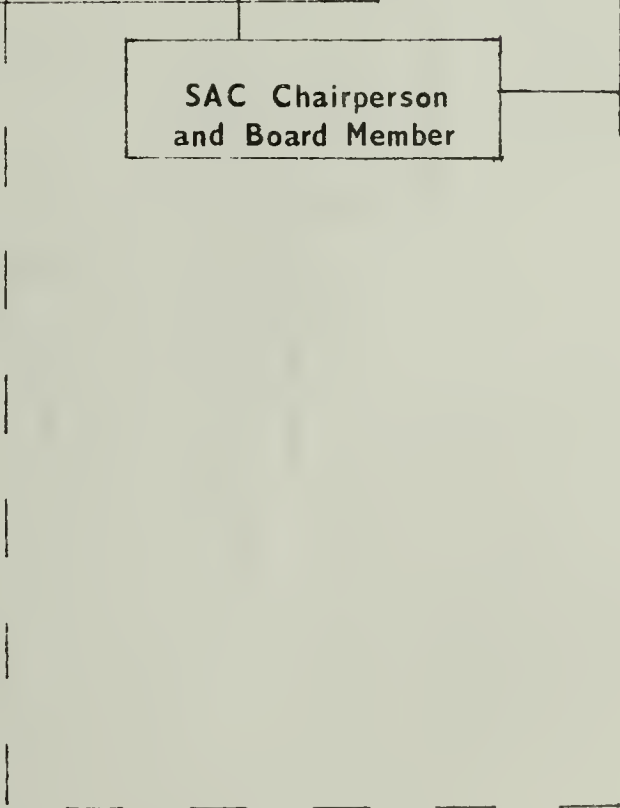
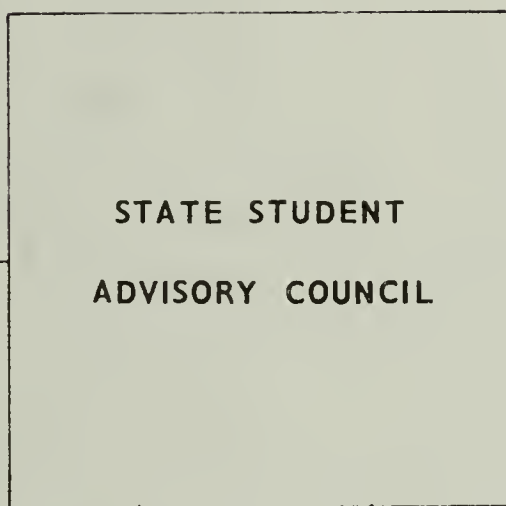
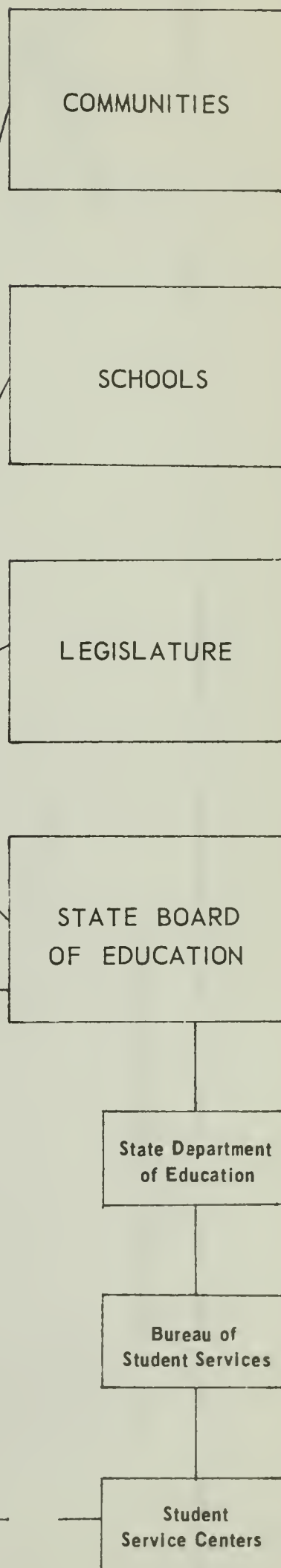
APPENDIX

STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

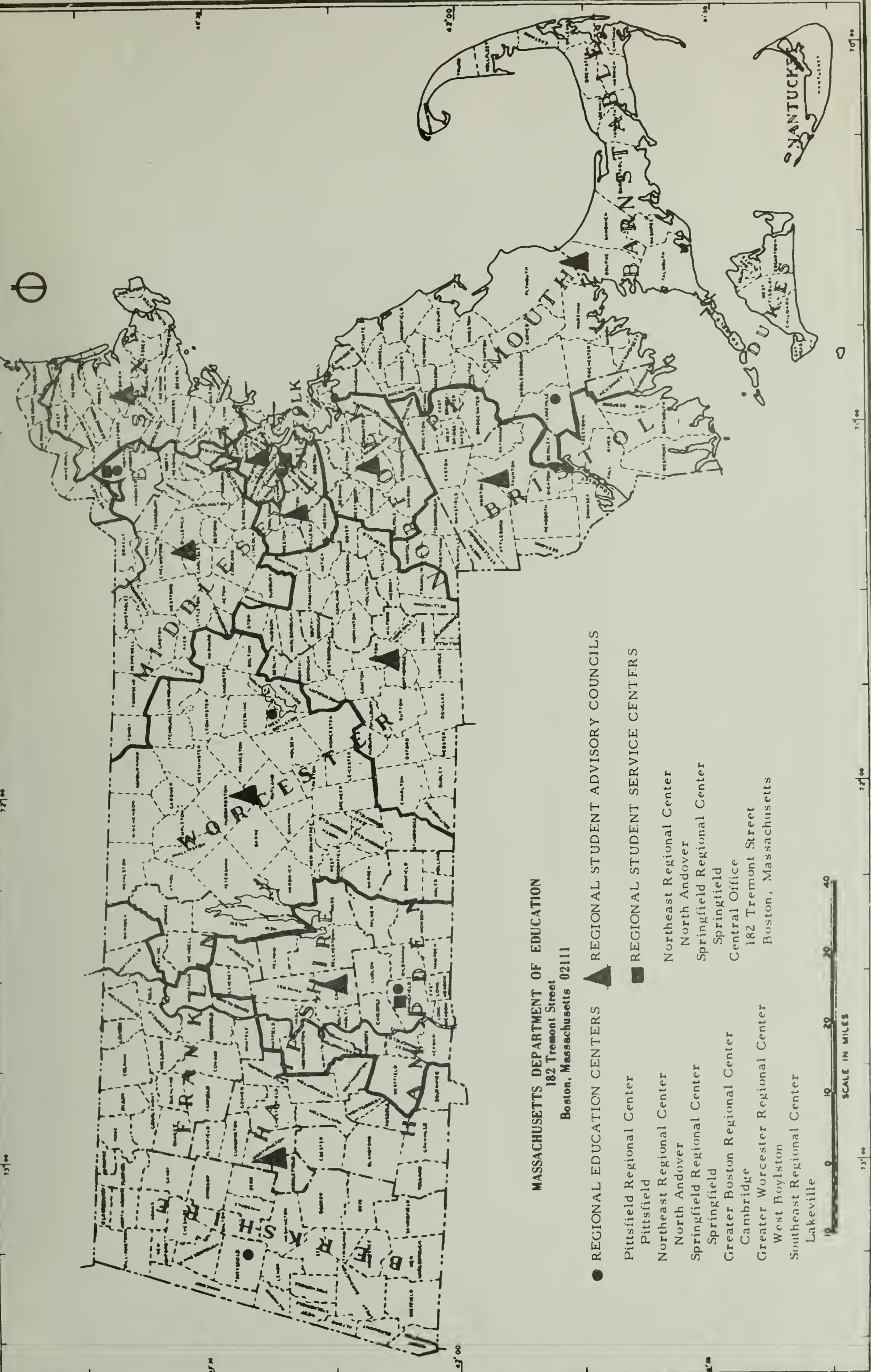
REGIONAL STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCILS



STUDENT OUTREACH



Student Service Centers



MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
182 Tremont Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02111

- REGIONAL EDUCATION CENTERS
 - ▲ REGIONAL STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCILS
 - REGIONAL STUDENT SERVICE CENTERS
- | | |
|--|---|
| Pittsfield Regional Center
Pittsfield | Northeast Regional Center
North Andover |
| Northeast Regional Center
North Andover | Springfield Regional Center
Springfield |
| Springfield Regional Center
Springfield | Central Office
182 Tremont Street
Boston, Massachusetts |
| Greater Boston Regional Center
Cambridge | |
| Greater Worcester Regional Center
West Boylston | |
| Southeast Regional Center
Lakeville | |

